

REPORT

FROM

STANDING COMMITTEE A

ON THE

Polling Districts and Registration of Voters (Ireland) Bill.

WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
18 March, 1908.*

LONDON.

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By J. B. NICHOLS and SONS, PARLIAMENT MESSUERS, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN and SONS, LIMITED, 109, FETTER LANE, FLEET STREET, E.C.4; and
32, ABBINGTON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
OLIVER and BOYD, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1908.

1908.

STANDING COMMITTEE A.

[Thursday, 27th February, 1908].—Selection (Standing Committees and Chairmen's Panel).—Sir William Brampton Gordon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had nominated the following Members to serve on the three Standing Committees for the consideration of all Public Bills, not relating exclusively to Scotland, which may be committed to a Standing Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE A.

Mr. Arthur Allen.
Sir William Anson.
Mr. Ashley.
Mr. Attorney-General.
Mr. Godfrey Baring.
Sir John Bethell.
Mr. Boland.
Mr. Bowerman.
Mr. Cave.
Sir Frederic Cawley.
Mr. Evelyn Cecil.
Mr. Clive.
Mr. Cobbold.
Sir William Collins.
Mr. Charles Corbett.
Mr. Charles Craig.
Mr. David Davies.
Mr. Ellis Davies.
Mr. Timothy Davies.
Mr. Devlin.
Mr. Arthur Dewar.
Sir Walter Foster.
Mr. Gladstone.
Mr. Goulding.
Mr. Gwynne.
Mr. William Edwin Harvey.
Mr. Holt.
Mr. William Hope.
Mr. Hudson.
Sir John Jardine.
Lord John Joicey-Cecil.
Mr. William Jones.
Mr. Joyce.

Mr. Lambton.
Mr. Bonar Law.
Mr. Macdonald.
Mr. Mansfield.
Mr. Lloyd Morgan.
Mr. McKillop.
Mr. Morrell.
Mr. Nussey.
Mr. O'Shaughnessy.
Mr. Parkes.
Mr. William Pearson.
Dr. Pollard.
Mr. Raphael.
Sir John Randle.
Mr. Walter Rea.
Mr. Rendell.
Mr. Thomas Richards.
Mr. Thomas Frederick Richards.
Mr. Ridsdale.
Mr. Charles Roberts.
Earl of Ronaldshay.
Mr. Rose.
Mr. Rothchild.
Mr. Herbert Samuel.
Mr. Seaverns.
Colonel Seely.
Dr. Shipman.
Mr. Smeaton.
Mr. Smyth.
Mr. Waldron.
Mr. Walrand.
Mr. John Ward.
Mr. Cathcart Watson.

CHAIRMEN'S PANEL.

Sir William Brampton Gordon further reported from the Committee, That they had selected the following Eight Members to be the Chairmen's Panel, and to serve as Chairmen of the Four Standing Committees to be appointed under Standing Order No. 47:—Sir Francis Channing, Sir Thomas Esdaile, Mr. Laurence Hardy, Sir William Holland, Sir David Brynmor Jones, Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Mr. Eugene Wason, and Mr. John William Wilson.

[Friday, 28th February, 1908].—Standing Committees (Chairmen's Panel).—Mr. Stuart-Wortley reported from the Chairmen's Panel; That they had appointed Mr. Stuart-Wortley to act as Chairman of Standing Committee A; and Mr. Eugene Wason to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Scottish Bills.

Mr. Stuart-Wortley further reported from the Chairmen's Panel; That they had agreed to the following Resolution, That any Member of the Chairmen's Panel be and he is hereby empowered to ask any other Member of the Chairmen's Panel to take his place in case of necessity.

[Monday, 2nd March, 1908]:—Polling Districts and Registration of Voters (Ireland) Bill,—read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

[Tuesday, 3rd March 1908]:—Selection (Standing Committee).—Sir William Brampton Gordon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added the following Member to Standing Committee A: Mr. Baldwin.

[Tuesday, 3rd March, 1908]:—

DISTRIBUTION BY MR. SPEAKER, PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 47,
OF BILLS COMMITTED TO A STANDING COMMITTEE.

Name of Bill.	Standing Committee.
Polling Districts and Registration of Voters (Ireland) Bill	A

[Friday, 6th March, 1908]:—Selection (Standing Committee).—Sir William Brampton Gordon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from Standing Committee A (in respect of the Polling Districts and Registration of Voters (Ireland) Bill: Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Herbert Samuel, and Mr. Gledstone; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Birrell, Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, and Mr. Solicitor General for Ireland.

Sir William Brampton Gordon further reported from the Committee; That they had added to Standing Committee A the following fifteen Members (in respect of the Polling Districts and Registration of Voters (Ireland) Bill: Mr. Agnew, Mr. Bertram Straus (Mile End), Mr. Robert Price, Mr. Marnham, Mr. Schwann, Mr. Hugh Low, Mr. McCalmont, Captain Craig, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Jeremiah Macveagh, Mr. Long, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

[Monday, 9th March, 1908]:—Standing Committee.—Ordered, That all Standing Committees have leave to print and circulate with the Votes the Minutes of their Proceedings, and any amended Clauses of Bills committed to them.—(Mr. Eugene Wason.)

[Thursday, 12th March, 1908]:—Selection (Standing Committee).—Sir William Brampton Gordon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from Standing Committee A: Mr. Charles Craig; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Thomas Lochner Corbett.

R E P O R T.

STANDING COMMITTEE A, to whom the POLLING DISTRICTS AND REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (IRELAND) BILL was referred;—Have gone through the Bill and made Amendments thereunto.

18th March, 1908.

STANDING COMMITTEE A,

Wednesday, 18th March, 1908.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. STUART-WORTLEY in the Chair.

Mr. Agnew.
Mr. Arthur Allen.
Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland.
Mr. Godfrey Baring.
Mr. Bowerman.
Mr. Clive.
Mr. Cohnhold.
Mr. C. H. Corbett.
Captain Craig.
Mr. Ellis Davies.
Mr. Timothy Davies.
Mr. Bateman Hope.
Sir John Jardine.

Mr. Marham.
Mr. Lloyd Morgan.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. O'Shaughnessy.
Mr. William Pearce.
Mr. Rendall.
Mr. Ridsdale.
Mr. Charles Roberts.
Mr. Rose.
Mr. Scavens.
Mr. Smeaton.
Mr. John Ward.
Mr. Cathcart Wason.

POLLING DISTRICTS AND REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Clause 1.

Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 5, at the beginning, to insert the words "Subject to the provisions of this Act"—(*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*).—Question, "That those words be there inserted,"—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 1, lines 5 and 6, to leave out the words "with the sanction of the Local Government Board for Ireland so remodel the," in order to insert the words "alter any"—(*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*)—instead thereof. Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and *negatived*.

Question, "That those words be there inserted,"—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 6, to leave out all the words after the word "districts" to the end of the Clause, in order to add the words: "wholly included within its administrative county in such manner as to secure that each parliamentary polling district constituted under this Act shall consist wholly of one or more district electoral divisions, and may appoint new polling places for such districts in addition to or in substitution for existing polling places. Provided that nothing in this Act nor anything done in pursuance of this Act shall alter the limits of any parliamentary borough or parliamentary county within the meaning of The Redistribution of Seats Act, 1885"—(*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*)—instead thereof.

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"—put, and *negatived*.

Question, "That those words be there added,"—put, and *agreed to*.

Clause, as amended, *agreed to*.

Clause 2, *disagreed to*.

Clause 3.

Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 14, after the word "Act," to insert the words "shall apply to Ireland only and"—(*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*).

Question, "That those words be there inserted,"—put, and *agreed to*.

Clause, as amended, *agreed to*.

New Clause ("Procedure") brought up, and read the first time as follows:

"(1) A county council that desires to exercise any of its powers under section one of this Act shall prepare a scheme in the prescribed manner setting forth the alterations proposed to be made in respect of the existing polling districts or polling places, and after publication of the prescribed notices shall submit the scheme to the Local Government Board.

(2) Any person dissatisfied with the scheme may appeal to the Local Government Board against the scheme within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner.

(3) The Local Government Board, after consideration of the scheme and any representations made by way of appeal or otherwise, may, if they think fit, make an order confirming the scheme either absolutely or with such variations or modifications as they think expedient, and the scheme shall take effect accordingly as from the date fixed by the order.

(4) No scheme shall be of any force or validity unless and until it is confirmed by an order of the Local Government Board under this section."

—(*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*).

Clause read a second time and added to the Bill.

Another New Clause ("Rules and inquiries") brought up and read the first time as follows:—

"(1) The Local Government Board may make general rules for carrying this Act into effect, and in particular for adapting to the provisions of this Act the enactments relating to the registration of Parliamentary voters in Ireland, and the precepts and forms contained in or used under those enactments.

(2) The Local Government Board may, for the purpose of carrying out any of their duties under this Act, cause to be made a local inquiry, and the provisions of article thirty-two of the schedule of The Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, shall apply to every such inquiry in like manner as it applies to local inquiries held for the purposes of The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.

(3) All rules under this section shall be published in the Dublin Gazette and laid before Parliament."

—(*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*).

Clause read a second time and added to the Bill.

Another New Clause ("Definitions") brought up and read the first time as follows:

"In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

The expression "Local Government Board" means the Local Government Board for Ireland;

The expression "prescribed" means prescribed by the Local Government Board;

The expression "county council" shall not include the council of a county borough."

—(*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*).

Clause read a second time and added to the Bill.

Ordered, to Report the Bill, as amended, to the House.

[Adjourned till Wednesday, 25th March, at 12 o'clock.

